

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-41 (previously cancelled).

42. (currently amended) A method for isolating a tetrameric form of uricase from a solution of uricase, said solution comprising tetrameric uricase and uricase aggregates, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

applying said solution to at least one separation column at a pH between about 9 and 10.5; and

recovering from said column one or more fractions that contain isolated tetrameric uricase, wherein said one or more fractions are substantially free of uricase aggregates.

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43. (previously added) The method of Claim 42, wherein said solution of said uricase is applied to said column at a pH of 10.2.

44. (previously added) The method of Claim 42, wherein said separation is based on a property selected from the group consisting of ion exchange and size exclusion.

45. (previously added) The method of Claim 42, further comprising the step of analyzing said fractions to determine at least one property selected from the group consisting of the presence of said tetrameric uricase and the absence of uricase aggregates.

46. (previously added) The method of Claim 45, wherein said analyzing step

comprises at least one analysis selected from the group consisting of chromatography, centrifugation, light scattering and electrophoresis.

47. (previously added) The method of Claim 46, wherein said chromatography is high performance liquid chromatography.

48. (previously added) The method of Claim 42, wherein said isolated tetrameric uricase contains less than about 10% uricase aggregates.

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49. (previously added) An isolated tetrameric uricase produced by the method of Claim 42.

50. (currently amended) ~~The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 49, wherein the uricase is a~~ An isolated tetrameric mammalian uricase, wherein said tetrameric uricase is substantially free of uricase aggregates.

51. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 50, wherein the uricase is porcine liver, bovine liver or ovine liver uricase.

52. (currently amended) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim ~~49~~ 50, wherein the uricase is recombinant.

53. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 52, wherein the

uricase has substantially the sequence of porcine, bovine, ovine or baboon liver uricase.

54. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 52, wherein the uricase is chimeric.

55. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 54, wherein the chimeric uricase contains portions of porcine liver and baboon liver uricases.

56. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 55, wherein the chimeric uricase is pig-baboon chimeric uricase.

57. (currently amended) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim ~~55~~52, wherein the ~~chimeric~~ uricase is recombinant porcine uricase containing lysine in place of arginine at residue number 291 and serine in place of threonine at residue number 301.

58. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 52, wherein the uricase has substantially the sequence of baboon liver uricase in which tyrosine 97 has been replaced by histidine.

59. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 52, wherein the uricase comprises an amino terminal and a carboxyl terminal, and wherein the uricase is truncated at one terminal or both terminals.

60. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 49, wherein the uricase is a fungal or microbial uricase.

61. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 60, wherein the fungal or microbial uricase is isolated from *Aspergillus flavus*, *Arthrobacter globiformis*, *Bacillus sp.*, or *Candida utilis*, or is a recombinant enzyme having substantially the sequence of one of those uricases.

Bi 62. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 49, wherein the uricase is an invertebrate uricase.

63. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 62, wherein the invertebrate uricase is isolated from *Drosophila melanogaster* or *Drosophila pseudoobscura*, or is a recombinant enzyme having substantially the sequence of one of those uricases.

64. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 49, wherein the uricase is a plant uricase.

65. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 64, wherein the plant uricase is isolated from root nodules of *Glycine max* or is a recombinant enzyme having substantially the sequence of that uricase.

66. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 49, each subunit of the uricase being subsequently covalently linked to an average of 2 to 10 strands of PEG to form a PEG-uricase conjugate, wherein each molecule of PEG has a molecular weight between about 5 kDa and 100 kDa, and wherein the conjugate retains at least about 75% of the uricolytic activity of unconjugated uricase and is substantially non-immunogenic.

67. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 66, wherein the PEG has an average molecular weight between about 10 kDa and 60 kDa.

68. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 67, wherein the PEG has an average molecular weight between about 20 kDa and 40 kDa.

69. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 66, wherein the average number of covalently coupled strands of PEG is 3 to 8 strands per uricase subunit.

70. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 69, wherein the average number of covalently coupled strands of PEG is 4 to 6 strands per uricase subunit.

71. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 66, wherein the strands of PEG are covalently coupled to uricase via linkages selected from the group

consisting of urethane linkages, secondary amine linkages, and amide linkages.

72. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 66, wherein the PEG is linear.

73. (previously added) The isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim 66, wherein the PEG is branched.

B/ 74. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for lowering uric acid levels in a body fluid or tissue, comprising the isolated tetrameric uricase of Claim ~~49~~ 50 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

75. (previously added) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 74, wherein said composition is stabilized by lyophilization and dissolves promptly upon reconstitution to provide solutions suitable for parenteral administration.

76. (previously added) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 74, wherein said composition is stabilized by lyophilization and dissolves promptly upon reconstitution to provide solutions suitable for administration through inhalation.
